

University of Illinois

Thesis in Architecture

1907

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A CITY HALL

BY

ARTHUR WARD ARCHER

THESIS

FOR THE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN

ARCHITECTURE

IN THE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE 1907

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THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Arthur Ward Archer

ENTITLED A CITY HALL

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture

John W. Chase

Instructor in Charge.

APPROVED: N. Clifford Pickard.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture



The building forming the subject matter of this thesis is to be located in a western city of about 700,000 inhabitants. The site is a radial point about 250 feet square into which run four avenues leading to the four entrances of the building.

As the value of business lots in our large cities increase almost all large buildings expand in a vertical direction rather than a horizontal. Because of the cost of property, and more perhaps because of the contrasting mass between the tall and low structures as our City Halls are now, and the absolute helplessness of this type to compare in dignity and appearance with the former I have massed my design for a City Hall as a tall office building.

The building is a twenty three story fire proof structure, faced on the outside with Terra Cotta, reenforced with brick. The color of all face Terra Cotta is cream and all mortar is made to match it. The base courses and the outside steps and their buttresses are of light colored lime stone. All roofs which have any pitch whatsoever are covered with slate. The frame of the building is of steel; the floors are reenforced concrete. All inside partitions are made of tile.

Leading from the basement to the top floor is a battery of ten elevators each one of which is 4' x 5' in size. The elevators are set in two rows of five each, parallel to and 10' distant from one another. Between these two rows are two flights of stairs leading up and down from the first floor. These passageways are very carefully fire proofed with wire glass in metal frame.

The first floor is left open because it is a public building



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<https://archive.org/details/cityhall00arch>

and at all times there will be people coming in and going out--and so to avoid jostling crowds a large public lobby is provided.

All the officers who receive money or those who have work in connection therewith are placed as conveniently as possible for their own work and for the public. All other officers follow in their sequence,

Excise Tax Collector	1600	sq. ft.	
Vault	150	"	"
Toilet	150	"	"
Post Office	300	"	"
Cashier of water wks.	1600	"	"
Vault	150	"	"
Toilet	150	"	"
Public toilet	300	"	"
Sewer & Paving Tax	1600	"	"
Vault	150	"	"
Toilet	150	"	"
Telephone & Telegraph Office	300	"	"
Vehicle Tax	1600	"	"
Vault	150	"	"
Toilet	150	"	"
Public Toilet	300	"	"
Vestibules	3600	"	"
Public Lobby	6000	"	"
Tax Collector	1600	"	"
Collector of Arrears	700	"	"
Toilet	150	"	"

Vault	300	sq. ft.	
Prin. Business Office Tax Dept.	1300	"	"
Vault	300	"	"
Closet	225	"	"
Toilet	225	"	"
City Clerk	1500	"	"
Toilet	200	"	"
Vault	150	"	"
Asst. City Clerk	1100	"	"
Closet	200	"	"
Toilet	200	"	"
Vault	150	"	"
City Treasurer	1600	"	"
Vault	150	"	"
Toilet	225	"	"
City Comptroller	1400	"	"
Vault	150	"	"
Toilet	225	"	"
City Auditor	1500	"	"
Vault	300	"	"
Toilet	175	"	"
Asst. City Auditor	700	"	"
Tax receiving	Counting	1600	"
" Commissioners		1300	"
Secty Tax Commission		700	"
Toilets			
Closets, etc.			

The following officers are located in the middle stories:

Mayor's office (Ante)	1500	sq. ft.	
Reception Room	1000	"	"
Private office	450	"	"
Toilet Room	120	"	"
Closets	150	"	"
President Bd of Public Affairs	1600	"	"
" Private office	500	"	"
Chief of Police	1600	"	"
Asst. Chief of Police	1100	"	"
Chief of Detectives	1600	"	"
Asst. Chief of Detectives	800	"	"
2 Stenographer	600	"	"
Clerk	500	"	"
Poor & Alms---Secty	600	"	"
Charity Board	500	"	"
City Physician	1600	"	"
Laboratory	1200	"	"
Operating Room	800	"	"
Waiting Room	500	"	"
Lobby	125	"	"
Street Department	1600	"	"
Street Supt.	1400	"	"
Street Commissioners	1600	"	"
Toilet Room	200	"	"
Closets	125	"	"
Supt. of Erection	600	"	"
City Supt. Prin. office	1600	"	"

City Supt. Private Office	500	sq. ft.	
City Engineer	1000	"	"
City Engr. Private office	600	"	"
Asst. City Engr. office	800	"	"
Sewer Inspector	500	"	"
Stenographers	300	"	"
Clerks	500	"	"
Drafting Room	1100	"	"
City Architect	1600	"	"
" " Private office	500	"	"
" " Drafting Room	1400	"	"
Clerks	500	"	"
Stenographers	400	"	"
City Examination Room	850	"	"
Stationary Supply Room	500	"	"
Clerk	600	"	"
Board of Supervisors Reception Room	1600	"	"
6 offices for Supervisors	450	each	
Documents	1500	sq. ft.	
Clerks	600	"	"
Title Searching Dept.	1800	"	"
Board of Education	1600	"	"
Receiving Dept. Principal Business	1400	"	"
Supt. Business office	600	"	"
Asst. Supt. Business office	500	"	"
Sealer of Wts & Measures	600	"	"
Testing lab.	1100	"	"
Private office	500	"	"

Toilet

Closets

In the upper stories are the following offices:

2 City Court Rooms	1800	each
2 Judge Rooms	225	"
2 Jury Rooms	225	"
2 Witness Rooms	400	"
Court Stenographers	650	sq. ft.
City Attorney	1600	" "
Asst. City Attorney	650	" "
Stenographer	225	" "
Library (City Law)	1600	" " "
Librarian	225	" "
Council Chamber	3000	" "
6 Committee Rooms	350	each

Toilets

Mayor's Retiring Room	200	sq. ft.
Stenographers	500	" "
Recpt Room for Comm.		
Board room Public Affairs	1200	" "
Secty Board Public Affairs		

This building is heated by steam from a central power plant some little distance away.

All the interior finish around corridors and places exposed to the public, is of marble. The corridor floors throughout are covered with marble tile.

There is perhaps no single style which would better full fil

the requirements of this problem than the Early French Renaissance because of the fact that it has the Gothic form with its light, lofty, growth and the refined classic detail and besides it allows a little more freedom in the choice of the Gothic or the Classic. With this idea in view I have attempted to keep the two styles in just proportion so that one may balance the other and still give the building the desired effect.

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